**Please amend the claims as follows:**

1. (Amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for providing accelerated data storage, said method steps comprising:

receiving a digital data stream at an input data transmission rate which is greater than a data storage rate of a target storage device;

compressing the digital data stream at a compression rate that increases the effective data storage rate of the target storage device; and

storing the compressed digital data stream in the target storage device,

wherein the instructions for performing the step of compressing comprise instructions for performing the steps of:

reading a first parameter that is indicative of a compression type to be applied to the input digital data stream; and

selecting at least one allowable encoder based on the first parameter.

56. (Amended) The program storage device of claim 1, wherein the compression type is one of lossless data compression, lossy data compression, and a combination thereof.

7. (Amended) The program storage device of claim 1, wherein the input digital data stream comprises a plurality of data blocks and wherein each data block has a first parameter associated therewith indicative of a compression type to be applied to the data block.

8. (Amended) The program storage device of claim 1, further comprising instructions for performing the step of reading a second data parameter that is indicative of an amount of information loss that is permissible, if lossy data compression is selected.

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9 16. (Amended) A method for providing accelerated data storage, comprising the steps of:

receiving a digital data stream at an input data transmission rate which is greater than a data storage rate of a target storage device;

compressing the digital data stream at a compression rate that increases the effective data storage rate of the target storage device; and

storing the compressed digital data stream in the target storage device,

wherein the step of compressing comprises the steps of:

reading a first parameter that is indicative of a compression type to be applied to the input digital data stream; and

selecting at least one allowable encoder based on the first parameter.

13 21. (Amended) The method of claim 9 16, wherein the compression type is one of lossless data compression, lossy data compression, and a combination thereof.

14 22. (Amended) The method of claim 9 16, wherein the input digital data stream comprises a plurality of data blocks and wherein each data block has a first parameter associated therewith indicative of a compression type to be applied to the data block.

15 23. (Amended) The method of claim 9 16, further comprising the step of reading a second parameter that is indicative of an amount of information loss that is permissible, if lossy data compression is selected.

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